

Appl. No. 10/767,983
Amdt. January 20, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 22, 2005

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electronic equipment comprising:
an operation tool to be mounted on a support member;
wherein said operation tool includes:
an operation portion to be operated by an operator;
a mounting portion formed spaced apart from the operation portion in a direction where an impact is applied to the operation tool, the mounting portion being arranged to be mounted on fixed to the support member; and
a crashable connecting portion for connecting together the operation portion and the mounting portion, the crashable connecting portion being adapted to be ~~crash~~ crashed upon an impact force exerted on the operation portion such that when the crashable connecting portion is crashed, the operation portion moves with respect to the mounting portion.
2. (Previously presented) The electronic equipment according to Claim 1,
wherein said crashable connecting portion radially extends from the mounting portion to the operation portion.
3. (Previously presented) The electronic equipment according to Claim 2,
wherein said crashable connecting portion includes plural bridge portions radially extending between the mounting portion and the operation portion so as to connect together said mounting portion and said operation portion.

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4. (Previously presented) The electronic equipment according to Claim 3,
wherein each of the bridge portions has a cross section of which the thickness, in a direction along the shaft, is smaller than the width thereof, in a direction perpendicular to the shaft.
5. (Previously presented) The electronic equipment according as set forth in Claim 2,
wherein a portion of the crashable connecting portion is bent along a length of the crashable connecting portion.
6. (Original) The electronic equipment according to Claim 2,
wherein the crashable connecting portion has a cut-away portion between the mounting portion and the operation portion.
7. (Original) The electronic equipment according to Claim 1, further comprising:
an outside piece including an outer tube portion constituting the operation portion;
and
an inside piece including an inner tube portion to be fitted with the outer tube portion;
wherein the inside piece has a structure in which the inner tube portion and the mounting portion on the inner peripheral side thereof are connected together by the crashable connecting portion.
8. (Previously presented) An operation tool comprising:
an outer knob;
a mounting portion; and
at least one crashable portion radially extending between the outer knob and the mounting portion,
wherein the at least one crashable portion is adapted to be collapsed upon an impact force exerted upon the outer knob thereby breaking a connection between the outer knob and the mounting portion.

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9. (Previously presented) The operation tool of claim 8, further comprising an inner knob having a cylindrical portion connected to the at least one crashable portion, the cylindrical portion of the inner knob being engaged with the outer knob.

10. (Previously presented) The operation tool of claim 9, wherein the at least one crashable portion includes a ring-shaped plate portion, which radially extends from the cylindrical portion, and a bridge portion, which radially extends between the ring-shaped plate portion and the mounting portion.

11. (Previously presented) The operation tool of claim 10, wherein the ring-shaped plate portion and the bridge portion are positioned such that the ring-shaped plate portion is axially shifted from the bridge portion along a rotation axis of the operation tool.

12. (Previously presented) The operation tool of claim 10, wherein the bridge portion is structurally weaker than the ring-shaped plate portion and the mounting portion.

13. (Previously presented) The operation tool of claim 1, wherein the mounting portion does not move upon the impact force exerted on the outer knob.